

THE AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN.

STATUS OF THE VIRGINIA. WHERE THE INVESTIGATION IS TO TAKE PLACE—IMMUNITY OF THE NOMINAL OWNER.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—It has been ascertained from a prominent Government officer that the investigation as to the character of the Virginia will be conducted in New-York.

The Government is powerless to proceed against Patterson, to whom the register for that vessel was issued, on account of the statute of limitations; therefore no punishment can be inflicted, two years having elapsed since he obtained the papers. Had all the facts been known within two years he would have been prosecuted for perjury.

COMMENTS OF THE HAVANA PRESS.—DAMAGES CLAIMED FROM THE UNITED STATES.

HAVANA, Dec. 23.—The Diario de la Marina today claims that as the United States Attorney-General has decided that the Virginia illegally carried the American flag at the time of her capture, Spain must demand her restoration and that of her surviving prisoners. It infers from the decision that the Virginia was a pirate, and the United States Government besides restoration must give Spain satisfaction adequate to the offense of requiring a surrender. The Diario demands that the same vessel which received the Virginia at Bahia Honda return her there, and that the Junata bring the prisoners back to Santiago, because the Virginia was the legal prize of the Tornado, and the prisoners can and should be tried only by Spanish tribunals. Spain is advised to be clement with them, and not to employ the full force of the law. The Diario concludes with the hope that Gen. Sickles will not withdraw his resignation.

The For de Cuba declares Spain now has the right to demand satisfaction from the United States, and the resignation of Gen. Sickles is imperative in view of the awkward and ridiculous position in which he is placed. In order to enforce her demands Spain requires a more energetic Minister at Washington than Admiral Polo.

The Diario in another article bitterly complains of the Home Government. It says: "No Spanish nation exists to-day. The nation is represented only by egotistical parties. There is no war cry. Therefore our traditional enemies put their feet on our necks. Had Spain been united the Washington protocol would never have been ratified. The nation would never have permitted the shadow of such an outrage."

AN ENGLISH OPINION OF SPAIN'S DEMAND OF THE RETURN OF THE VESSEL.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 23, 1873. The Times of this morning, alluding to the report that Spain has made a demand upon the United States for the restoration of the steamship Virginia and the survivors surrendered at Santiago de Cuba, says that such action on the part of Spain would be premature, despite the opinion of the Attorney-General of the United States that the Virginia had no right to carry the American flag. Spain must wait until a United States Court has settled the case of the vessel before proceeding further in the matter.

POSITION OF GREAT BRITAIN. NO CONCENTRATION OF BRITISH VESSELS IN CUBAN WATERS.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 23, 1873. There is no truth in the report that the British war-ships in the West Indies have been ordered to assemble in Cuban waters.

BRITISH MEN-OF-WAR ORDERED TO HAVANA. HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 23.—A rumor is current here that the British men-of-war have been ordered to proceed from Bermuda to Havana to await the result of the demand of the British Government for the punishment of Gen. Burriel for executing the English subjects among the Virginia captives.

THE MONITOR DICTATOR. A DESCRIPTION OF THE GREAT WAR SHIP—LIST OF THE OFFICERS.

The United States iron-clad Dictator, which arrived from New-London a short time ago, is now in the Erie Basin dry dock at South Brooklyn, undergoing repairs, but will probably be ready for sea to-morrow afternoon. The impression has generally prevailed, and indeed statements have been published to the effect that no dry dock in the vicinity of New-York was sufficiently large to receive this great monitor. The large dry dock at the Brooklyn Navy-Yard is about 350 feet in length. The Dictator is 312 feet in length, and is 31 feet in width, and has ample accommodations for the formidable vessel. The Dictator, it will be remembered was built during the last year of the war, and reached the sea at the same time with the Monitor No. 1 in 1863. She was prevented from participating in one or two of the latest naval engagements only by an accident to her machinery, and has never seen action since. In her race with the Terror from Boston to Fort Sumter, and thence to Portland, in 1862, she showed excellent speed though she suffered defeat. She subsequently made a cruise to the West Indies, and afterward remained at Key West for several years. Two or three years ago she was brought to New-London, and has remained there since her arrival. She was put into the Erie Basin dry dock on Friday last. Her hull was found to be completely covered with the scale coating of mussels, and several tons have already been removed. A large force of men were employed on the ship throughout the day on Saturday, and yesterday nearly 200 workmen were engaged in painting the hull and repairing the machinery.

The Dictator is 312 feet in length, by 31 feet breadth of beam, and 21 feet depth of hold. She is rated at 1,750 tons. The Dictator's weight is about 4,000 tons. Her surface is covered with six iron plates, each one inch in thickness. Directly beneath this covering are heavy white oak stringers, nearly one foot in thickness, and behind those the solid oak of the hull, which is about four feet thick. The iron plates of the deck are several inches thick, and are as solid as the broadway pavement. The single turret which rises above the deck is formed of iron 16 inches in thickness, and contains two heavy guns nearly 20 feet in length, and with a 15-inch bore. Above the turret is a gunhouse, which is about 10 feet in diameter, and of the same thickness as the lower portion of the turret. The Dictator is propelled by an enormous screw, 21 feet in diameter, with four blades, which drives her through the water at the rate of 10 knots an hour. The vessel draws 20 feet 8 inches of water. The Dictator is the largest monitor in active service in the American navy, with the exception of the Puritan, which is of 1,870 tons. The Ronoke, which is not properly a monitor, is nearly 1,000 tons larger, and with its three turrets, mounts 15-inch guns. It is asserted by officers of the Navy-Yard that the Dictator would prove a formidable foe to the strongest iron-clad of any nation. The list of officers as far as completed is as follows:

James E. Jewett, Commander; H. F. Pickens, Lieutenant-Commander and Executive Officer; B. P. Lamberton, Lieutenant-Commander; J. G. Eaton, Lieutenant; C. H. Stockton, Lieutenant; H. T. Monahan, Master; Edmund Olson, First Assistant Engineer; H. T. Bennett, First Assistant Engineer; A. B. Bates, Second Assistant Engineer; M. P. Cushing, Paymaster; and A. G. Overy, Surgeon.

OTHER NAVAL INTELLIGENCE. GDSSES IN REGARD TO EXTRA WORK AT NAVY-YARDS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—It turns out to be a mistake that the Secretary of the Navy has ordered all extra work to cease at the Navy-Yards. The order is that extra hours of work shall cease, that is that there shall not be, for the present, any more night or Sunday work; but the war-preparations are by no means to cease.

THE BROOKLYN NAVY-YARD. A statement in the morning newspapers that the Navy Department had ordered a suspension of all extra work caused much dismay among the workmen of the Brooklyn Navy-Yard yesterday. Fears were expressed, however, when it was ascertained that the order referred only to night and Sunday labor, and that the statement was but a repetition of what had been published several days before. It has now

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

HEALTH OF THE EMPEROR WILLIAM. HOW THE RUMORS OF HIS ILLNESS AFFECT THE PEOPLE OF BERLIN—HE IS SAID TO BE COMPARATIVELY WELL.

LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 24.—A special dispatch from Berlin to The London Times says that in consequence of the alarming rumors in regard to the health of the Emperor William, an anxious crowd filled the square opposite the Royal Palace last night.

The people were assured from the balcony that the Emperor was comparatively well, although confined to his room; but they refused to disperse. The Standard reports that rumors were persistently circulated yesterday of the Emperor's death. They are undoubtedly false; but it is certain that His Majesty is very ill.

GERMANY AND FRANCE. MORE TROUBLES LIKELY TO ARISE.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 23, 1873. The Daily News reports that the hostile tone of recent pastoral letters issued by French bishops has caused the German Government to renew its complaints to France.

FRANCE AND ITALY. A RESUMPTION OF CORDIAL RELATIONS PROPOSED.

PARIS, Tuesday, Dec. 23, 1873. Chevalier Nigra, the Italian Minister, had an interview with President MacMahon to-day, and proposed the resumption of cordial relations between France and Italy.

THE BOWLES BANKRUPTCY CASE. AN ADJOURNMENT SINK DUE—PLANS OF THE CREDITORS.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 23, 1873. The Bowles Brothers & Co. bankruptcy case has been adjourned sine die. The creditors of the firm are in favor of the funding project.

FRENCH PEACE SOCIETY'S BANQUET. PARIS, Tuesday, Dec. 23, 1873.

The French Peace Society gave a banquet last night in honor of its Secretary, M. Richard, who has just returned from a mission to Italy. A number of Americans and Englishmen were among the guests, and toasts to the United States and Great Britain were given.

REPORTED DEATH OF HENRY ROCHEFORT. PARIS, Tuesday, Dec. 23, 1873.

It is reported that Henry Rochefort has died at the penal settlement in New-Caledonia.

FINANCES OF CUBA. HAVANA, Dec. 23.—The Junta, the Intendente, and the leading merchants continue to deliberate on plans for the solution of the financial crisis, but the result is as far off as ever.

THE SANTO DOMINGO REVOLUTION. ITS PRESENT CONDITION—THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WILL RESUME THE AGREEMENT WITH THE SAMANA BAY COMPANY.

The report that reached this city by way of Havana under date of December 22, announcing that the revolution in Santo Domingo had been closed by the election of Gen. Gonzalez to the Presidency of the Republic on that island, is thought to be a misinterpretation of the news which was published in THE TRIBUNE on Friday last. The assertion that the revolutionary government would annul the lease granted to the Samana Bay Company is also a misinterpretation of facts. A rumor reported on Friday evening by Mr. C. F. Passalunghi, the official agent of the Provisional Government of Santo Domingo, to inquire into the truth of the report received by way of Havana. Although very cautious in his answers, Mr. Passalunghi said he had no hesitation in declaring the statement relative to the election of Gen. Gonzalez as President to be entirely incorrect. The primary object of the revolution was that the Dominican people might hold free and untrammelled elections; and therefore for the Provisional Government to attempt the holding of an election with the major portion of the country under the dominion of the revolutionists, and the southern part, or Santo Domingo district, still acknowledging the authority of Riaz, would be to act in the same manner as Riaz had been accused of doing. The published manifesto, after alluding to the frauds upon the people by means of the elections, stated that a Provisional Government or Committee of Public Welfare should be recognized "until the Dominican people," meaning all the citizens of the Republic, "shall by a vote appoint definitively a ruler," and it would therefore be against their own policy to hold an election until the island was restored to perfect order. Having a thorough knowledge of the various lines of steamers which touch at Puerto Plata en route for Cuba, Mr. Passalunghi said he could not see how such news could have reached Havana even if true. A Spanish steamer left St. Thomas about Dec. 12, and might have called at Puerto Plata on Dec. 16 if the vessel had a passenger on board, but these vessels very often went direct from St. Thomas to Santiago de Cuba. He was therefore under the impression that the report was a mere invention of the news known in St. Thomas on the 11th and already published, which intelligence, being read to the people of Cuba, had been misunderstood through their want of knowledge of the affairs on the island. The Provisional Government had, doubtless, been mistaken for an election. 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